

October 26, 1999

TO: Members of the MAG Regional Council

FROM: Mayor Neil G. Giuliano, Tempe, Chairman

SUBJECT: MEETING NOTIFICATION AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Meeting - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 3, 1999

MAG Office, Suite 200 - Saguaro Room

302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix

Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

MAG Office, Suite 300

Please park in the garage under the Arizona Bank Building. Parking places will be reserved for Regional Council members on the first and second levels of the garage. Bring your ticket to the meeting, parking will be validated. For those using transit, the Regional Public Transportation Authority will provide transit tickets for your trip. For those using bicycles, please lock your bicycle in the bike rack in the garage.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), MAG does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admissions to or participation in its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Valerie Day at the MAG office. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

The next Regional Council meeting will be held at the MAG offices at the time and place noted above. Members who wish to remove any items from the Consent Agenda are requested to contact the MAG office. MAG will host a progressive dinner/reception for the Regional Council members following the meeting in the MAG offices on the 3rd floor. Supporting information is enclosed for your review.

If you have any questions, please call the MAG office.

**MAG REGIONAL COUNCIL
TENTATIVE AGENDA
November 3, 1999**

	<u>COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED</u>
1. <u>Call to Order</u>	
2. <u>Pledge of Allegiance</u>	
3. <u>Approval of September 22, 1999 Meeting Minutes</u>	3. Review and approve September 22, 1999 meeting minutes.
4. <u>Call to the Audience</u> An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Regional Council for items that are not included on the agenda. Citizens will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call to the Audience agenda item, unless the Regional Council requests an exception to this limit.	4. For information.
5. <u>Executive Director's Report</u> The MAG Executive Director will provide a report to the Regional Council on activities of general interest.	5. For information and discussion.
6. <u>Approval of Consent Agenda</u> Prior to action on the consent agenda, members of the audience will be provided an opportunity to comment on consent items that are being presented for action. Following the comment period, Council members may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda. Consent items are marked with an asterisk.	6. For information, discussion and approval of the Consent Agenda.

***ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSENT**

AIR QUALITY ITEM

*7. <u>Consultation on Conformity Assessment for Proposed Amendments to the FY 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program</u> On September 21, 1999, the MAG Transportation Review Committee (TRC)	7. For information, discussion and consultation.
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recommended that seven projects be added to the 2000 MAG federally funded program, including the necessary amendments of the FY 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The projects implement median barriers on the regional freeway system as countermeasures for reducing median cross over crashes on urban freeways. Available federal Hazard Elimination Safety funds (HES) will be utilized to retrofit all existing freeways with cable median barriers.

MAG has reviewed the proposed projects for compliance with the federal conformity rule (40 CFR Parts 51 and 93) and has found that the proposed projects may be categorized as exempt, for which conformity determinations are not required. The current conformity finding of the TIP and the associated Long Range Transportation Plan Summary was made jointly by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration in a letter dated June 10, 1999 and would be unchanged by the proposed TIP Amendments. Please refer to the enclosed material.

TRANSPORTATION ITEMS

*8. Consultant Selection for the MAG Park and Ride Site Selection Study

In May, the Regional Council approved the FY 2000 MAG Unified Planning Work Program which included funding for a park and ride site selection study. The purpose of the study is to identify park and ride lots that would support both express bus service and car and van pooling, and help to increase the use of HOV lanes on the regional system. A request for proposals was advertised and six proposals were received. A multi-agency review panel evaluated the proposals and four were selected for interviews. The review panel recommended that the consultant firm KJS Associates, Incorporated, be selected to conduct the study for an amount not to exceed \$370,000. The Management Committee concurred with this recommendation. Please refer to the enclosed material.

8. For information, discussion, and approval of the selection of the consultant firm KJS Associates Incorporated to conduct the MAG Park and Ride Site Selection Study for an amount not to exceed \$370,000.

*9. Construction of Median Cable Barriers on the MAG Freeway System

Governor Hull has requested that the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) implement median barriers on the regional freeway system as a countermeasure for reducing median cross over crashes on urban freeways. The MAG freeway system has been designed primarily to have a 46-foot median width for which a median barrier is considered optional according to design standards. An ADOT team has reviewed the state-of-practice for placement of median barriers on urban freeways. This included a review of traffic and crash data in other states and has resulted in a Draft Median Barrier Guideline for Urban Freeways. This guideline recommends barriers on medians less than 75 feet in width. According to this recommendation median barriers are required on all existing and planned urban freeways in the region. The guideline also recommends the use of cable median barriers as the most cost effective barrier.

ADOT is planning to utilize available federal Hazard Elimination Safety funds (HES) for retrofitting all existing freeways with cable median barriers. It is recommended that MAG fund installation of median cable barriers on all new freeways (including freeways under construction). The Management Committee concurred with this recommendation. All of the projects are regarded as exempt for air quality conformity analysis purposes, and consultation on the status of these projects is included in a separate agenda item. It is therefore expected that only a "minor" amendment to the FY 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program will be necessary, in order for these projects to proceed. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*10. Amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget for the Regional Rideshare Program

In May 1999, the Regional Council approved the FY 2000 MAG Unified Planning Work Program, which included funding for the Regional Rideshare Program. In addition, in June 1999, the Regional Council approved an enhancement to the Rideshare Program for \$200,000 in the FY 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This additional amount was

9. For information, discussion and approval to:

1. Fund median cable barriers on new freeways (including new freeways under construction) with MAG freeway funds;
2. Fund median cable barriers on all existing freeways with ADOT Hazard Elimination Safety funds;
3. Amend the FY 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program to include the following median cable barrier projects in FY 2000 with ADOT Hazard Elimination Safety funding:

- (i) Agua Fria from Northern Avenue to I-17, (\$2.75 million);
- (ii) I-10 from Dysart Road to Stack (I-17) & 7th Street to I-17, (\$2.79 million);
- (iii) Pima Freeway from Shea Blvd. To Salt River, (\$1.81 million);
- (iv) Price Freeway from Loop 202 to Guadalupe Road, (\$0.76 million);
- (v) Red Mountain from Loop 101 to Country Club Road, (\$0.67 million);
- (vi) Squaw Peak Freeway from Glendale Avenue to Bell Road, (\$1.34 million);
- (vii) Superstition Freeway from Signal Butte Road to Mountain View Road, (\$1.00 million).

4. Encourage ADOT to provide for the maximum landscaping feasible.

10. For information, discussion and approval to amend the FY 2000 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to include the enhanced rideshare amount of \$200,000.

inadvertently not included in the Work Program. Therefore, staff is recommending that the FY 2000 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget be amended to include the enhanced rideshare amount of \$200,000 that was previously approved in the TIP. The Management Committee recommended amending the Work Program to include the enhanced rideshare amount. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*11. Proposed 1999 Revisions to MAG Standard Specifications and Details for Public Works Construction

The MAG Standard Specifications and Details Committee has completed its review of proposed 1999 revisions to the MAG Standard Specifications and Details for Public Works Construction. In prior years, the MAG Public Works Committee reviewed a summary of their Specifications and Details Committee's recommendations prior to approving the revisions. The Public Works Committee has now been dissolved. The summary of these recommendations has been mailed to members of the MAG Management Committee and to MAG Public Works Directors for review for a period of one month. Following this review, if no objections are received, the proposed revisions will be regarded as approved and printing of the final document will proceed. Resolution of any objections to the proposed revisions will be sought by the co-chairmen of the Specifications and Details Committee. It is anticipated that the annual update packet will be available for purchase in early January, 2000. Please refer to the enclosed material.

11. For information and discussion.

GENERAL ITEMS

*12. Consultant Selection for the MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Revision

In May 1999, the MAG Regional Council approved the Unified Planning Work Program which included \$225,000 for consultant services for the MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Revision. Twenty years in scope, the MAG 208 Plan is comprised of two major elements. The Nonpoint Source Element of the plan describes federal and State program activities to control nonpoint source

12. For information, discussion and approval to select the consultant firm of Carollo Engineers to develop the MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Revision for an amount not to exceed \$223,840.

pollution. The Point Source Element describes the existing and future wastewater treatment systems for the local jurisdictions. The last revision of the 208 Plan was adopted by the Regional Council in 1993. A request for proposals was advertised and four proposals were received. A multi-agency review team evaluated the proposals and the consensus of the team was that Carollo Engineers be selected to develop the Plan revision for an amount not to exceed \$223,840. On October 5, 1999, the MAG Water Quality Advisory Committee recommended Carollo Engineers to conduct the Plan revision. The Management Committee concurred with the recommendation of the Committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*13. Approval of the Draft July 1, 1999 Maricopa County Resident Population Update

The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) has prepared a Draft July 1, 1999 Resident Population Update for the State of Arizona and the counties within Arizona. DES derived a draft resident population of 4,924,350 for the State of Arizona and 2,913,475 for Maricopa County. For Maricopa County this represents an increase of 107,375 residents in the last year, or 3.8 percent. On October 22, 1999, the state and county updates will be presented to the State Population Technical Advisory Committee (POPTAC) for consideration. Because the Maricopa County update could change based on comments received at the State POPTAC meeting, the MAG POPTAC, recommended approval of the July 1, 1999 Maricopa County Resident Population Update, provided that it is within one percent of the draft update of 2,913,475. The Management Committee concurred with this recommendation. Please refer to the enclosed material.

13. For information, discussion and approval of the July 1, 1999 Maricopa County Resident Population Update provided that it is within one percent of the draft update of 2,913,475.

ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD

VALLEY VISION 2025 UPDATE

14. Valley Vision 2025 Update

An update on the activities of the Valley Vision 2025 Committee will be provided to the members of the Regional Council.

14. For information and discussion.

TRANSPORTATION ITEM15. Update on Transportation Funding Estimate

In April, the Arizona Department of Transportation met with transportation officials from throughout Arizona to agree on a new set of guiding principles for Arizona's transportation planning and programming process. A key recommendation from this discussion was the formation of a Resource Allocation Advisory Committee (RAAC). The RAAC has representatives from ADOT, Metropolitan Planning Organizations and rural Councils of Governments. The purpose of this committee is to annually recommend estimates for the distribution of future state and federal revenues. A series of meetings has been held of the RAAC and on October 6, 1999, a consensus was reached by the RAAC for a funding estimate. An update will be provided to the Regional Council regarding these discussions.

15. For information and discussion.

GENERAL ITEMS16. Apache Junction Request for Representation on MAG Boards

At the October Regional Council Executive Committee meeting, a request by the City of Apache Junction for formal representation on MAG boards was considered. The City of Apache Junction requested ex-officio non-voting membership on the MAG Management Committee and Regional Council. The representatives from Apache Junction indicated that having the ability to sit at the table with the Management Committee and Regional Council members in a non-voting status would enhance their ability to discuss regional issues that impact their community. They mentioned that especially in the areas of transportation and air quality they are already considered part of the MAG planning process as defined by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency. The Executive Committee recommended approval of this request for consideration by the members of the Regional Council. Please refer to the enclosed material.

16. For information, discussion and approval to include the City of Apache Junction on the Management Committee and Regional Council as an ex-officio non-voting member.

STUDY SESSION ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD

GENERAL ITEMS

17. Desert Spaces Plan Implementation Task Force Draft Final Report

In 1995, the Regional Council adopted the Desert Spaces Plan. The Plan included ten implementation steps and recommended that the MAG Blue Ribbon Committee develop a long range open space implementation strategy. In February 1996, the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Committee were adopted by the Regional Council. One of these recommendations was for the formation of the Desert Spaces Plan Implementation Task Force. The Task Force which was subsequently formed included 17 members from federal, state, local and conservation related agencies. The purpose of the Task Force was to develop supportable actions to create a contiguous open space system that sets priorities and identifies processes to implement the Desert Spaces Plan. The recommendations of the Task Force include the following; (1) formation of a citizens committee to provide leadership for the implementation of the Plan; (2) disseminate the policies and guidelines for environmentally sensitive development areas and work with affected groups to implement the policies and guidelines; (3) Use the Desert Spaces Plan in commenting on proposed local, state and federal land use decisions; (4) seek funding sources to acquire, protect and maintain region-wide conservation areas identified in the Desert Spaces Plan and (5) support implementation of the Plan through a variety of methods. It is anticipated that following the Management Committee and Regional Council study sessions on the recommendations, the final report will be presented to the Regional Council in December for approval. Please refer to the enclosed material.

18. Environmentally Sensitive Development Areas Policies and Design Guidelines

The Desert Spaces Plan, adopted by the Regional Council in 1995, identified Retention Areas. To develop strategies to protect these areas, the Desert Spaces Implementation Task Force formed a Desert Spaces Sub Committee. The Sub Committee referred to these Retention Areas as Environmentally Sensitive Development Areas (ESDA). The Desert Spaces Plan suggested that growth and development in Retention Areas should

17. For information and discussion.

18. For information and discussion.

be managed sensitively to balance development with natural resources values. "These areas should be managed to retain the integrity of undeveloped hillsides and ridge lines, rivers and washes, native vegetation, wildlife diversity, and archaeologic and historic sites". ESDA or Retention Areas, include 759,100 acres of publicly owned land, and 566,643 acres of privately owned land with high open space value, recommended for sensitive development regulations. The purpose of the policies and guidelines are to help guide public and private sector individuals to work together to sensitively manage these ESDA lands. Following the Management Committee and Regional Council study sessions, it is anticipated that the policies and guidelines will be presented to the Regional Council in December for approval. Please refer to the enclosed material.